



Department of Medical Assistance Services
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www.dmas.virginia.gov

MEDICAID MEMO

TO: All Physicians participating in the Virginia Medical Assistance Program, FAMIS, and Managed Care Organizations providing services to Virginia Medicaid and FAMIS recipients

FROM: Patrick W. Finnerty, Director
Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS)

MEMO: Special
DATE: 6/5/2007

SUBJECT: Physician Rate Increases – Effective July 1, 2007

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you of changes in the payment rates for Medicaid and FAMIS covered physician services effective July 1, 2007.

As directed in the 2007 Appropriation Act, pediatric services (non-emergency evaluation and management (E&M) codes for recipients under age 21) will increase by 10 percent, on average. All other services (including anesthesia services), except obstetrics/gynecology (OB/GYN) services, will increase by 5 percent, on average.

Please be aware that simultaneous with the implementation of the increases noted above, DMAS is also conducting the annual update, per Medicaid regulations, that applies the new Relative Value Units (RVUs) implemented by Medicare last January. DMAS implements this update on July 1st of each year. The combined effect of this update and the increases noted above is that very few individual pediatric E&M rates will increase by exactly 10 percent, and very few other rates will increase by exactly 5 percent. Most individual rates will increase either more or less than this, and some rates will go down. However, on average, the new rates will result in increased payments as directed in the Appropriation Act.

Rates by procedure code are posted on the DMAS web site at www.dmas.virginia.gov. On the right hand side of the home page under “What’s New,” there is a link to the “Procedure Fee Schedule Files.”

ELIGIBILITY AND CLAIMS STATUS INFORMATION

DMAS offers a web-based Internet option (ARS) to access information regarding Medicaid or FAMIS eligibility, claims status, check status, service limits, prior authorization, and pharmacy prescriber identification. The website address to use to enroll for access to this system is

<http://virginia.fhsc.com>. The MediCall voice response system will provide the same information and can be accessed by calling 1-800-884-9730 or 1-800-772-9996. Both options are available at no cost to the provider.

“HELPLINE”

The “HELPLINE” is available to answer questions Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., except on state holidays. The “HELPLINE” numbers are:

1-804-786-6273	Richmond area and out-of-state long distance
1-800-552-8627	All other areas (in-state, toll-free long distance)

Please remember that the “HELPLINE” is for provider use only. Please have your Medicaid Provider Identification Number available when you call.

COPIES OF MANUALS

DMAS publishes electronic and printable copies of its Provider Manuals and Medicaid Memoranda on the DMAS website at www.dmas.virginia.gov. Refer to the “DMAS Content Menu” column on the left-hand side of the DMAS web page for the “Provider Services” link, which takes you to the “Manuals, Memos and Communications” link. This link opens up a page that contains all of the various communications to providers, including Provider Manuals and Medicaid Memoranda. The Internet is the most efficient means to receive and review current provider information. If you do not have access to the Internet or would like a paper copy of a manual, you can order it by contacting Commonwealth-Martin at 1-804-780-0076. A fee will be charged for the printing and mailing of the manuals and manual updates that are requested.

PROVIDER E-NEWSLETTER SIGN-UP

DMAS is pleased to inform providers about the creation of a new Provider E-Newsletter. The intent of this electronic newsletter is to inform, communicate, and share important program information with providers. Covered topics will include changes in claims processing, common problems with billing, new programs or changes in existing programs, and other information that may directly affect providers. If you would like to receive the electronic newsletter, please sign up at www.dmas.virginia.gov/pr-enewsletter.asp.

Please note that the Provider E-Newsletter is not intended to take the place of Medicaid Memos, Medicaid Provider Manuals, or any other official correspondence from DMAS.